

17,700
S-17,700
DEC 13 1967

2

THE MAGAZINE Wed., Dec. 1 1967

Say! If I Do My Studies Can I Join the CIA?

FOIAb3b

CPYRIGHT

FOIAb3b

CPYRIGHT

CPYRIGHT by Edna Buchanan

Looking for a job?

If you're an expert on something, don't mind sifting garbage on occasion, are unperturbed by constant public criticism and can answer NO to these questions:

—Have you ever had any homosexual relations?

—Have you ever given official information to anyone?

—Then you could be a candidate for the CIA. Of course, a lie detector examination will have to back up your answers to the above and other questions. Prospective agents have been known to crack under the mental strain of the CIA's personality test.

They are rejected as emotionally unstable. The test is supposed to be

sure, as far as humanly possible, that CIA agents abroad don't crack under the strain of constant danger, fears of failing or maybe just criticism from the press, Congress, and everybody else who wonders just how shadowy the cloak and how sharp the dagger.

The quickest way to join the CIA is not to apply for a job. Ignore them. They'll find you.

But before you begin actively ignoring them, perhaps you should know a bit more about the business and what it takes to be a member of this secret government organization. Also, you should check to make sure you don't already work for them.

It's embarrassing to apply for a job with your own employer.

A government agent here in Miami admitted, "There are a lot of people who don't know it."

A happier side of the business is that agents claim they receive overseas pay for working in this area. It is understood when they are hired, of course, that they will be stationed outside the U.S. So when they are assigned to duty in this country — they get overseas pay — which they wouldn't get in, say, Morocco.

So, if you get to join the CIA you can always hope that you'll get the equivalent of an overseas beat — Miami, Portland, Butte.

The CIA recruits from colleges,

private business and, on occasion, from bars.

When the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion was being planned, agents were allegedly busy recruiting from Miami and New York bars. One man, who later wrote his story for a national magazine, described how he went out on the town for a night of drinking and next thing he knew, found himself in a jungle training camp, one of the few recruits unable to speak a word of Spanish. He told a harrowing tale of trying to find someone to surrender to shortly after hitting the beach.

If you are an expert on buttons, or any similarly important subject — your chances of recruitment increase.

One government official said, "There's more talent per square foot in the CIA than in any other branch of government — even allowing for all the oddballs and incompetents."

The CIA recruits experts on Soviet schools and Chinese boat-building. The button experts can learn much about Russian production methods by examining buttons made in Soviet factories. Experts in fields such as factory markings can glance at a dockside photo taken anywhere in the world and tell by the markings on the crates what is in the box, where and when it was made where it is going.

When the CIA is working at its best, it is very, very good — but when it's inept, it can turn out a pretty bad batch of porridge.

The organization, the primary job of which is to collect and evaluate intelligence, employs somewhere between 15,000 and 200,000 persons (well, it's a little hard to tell) and spends several billion dollars a year.

"It's so secret," complained a mid-western senator, "that we don't even know whether it's good or bad."

There is much, however, that filters through that veil of secrecy.

In fact, CIA capers have become almost as well-known as the adventures of James Bond — though more expensive and less entertaining to the tax payer.

To work for the CIA, you'd have to get accustomed to occasional night work. Gen. Wessin y Wessin in Santo Domingo said a CIA man visited him